

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
BLACK HILLS POWER, INC. FOR AUTHORITY)
TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC RATES.)
)** **ORDER FOR CONTINUANCE
OF PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE AND HEARING
EL09-018**

On September 30, 2009, Black Hills Power, Inc. (BHP), filed with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory. BHP states that it proposes to increase rates by approximately \$32 million annually or approximately 26.6% based on BHP's test year ending June 30, 2009. The company states a typical residential electric customer using 600 kWh per month would see a net increase of \$17.99 per month. The proposed rates may potentially affect approximately 64,100 customers in BHP's service territory.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of October 20, 2009, the Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1 A-8, BHP shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by the deputy executive director up to the statutory limit of \$100,000. The Commission further established an intervention deadline of November 20, 2009. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14, the Commission suspended the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by BHP for 180 days beyond September 30, 2009. On December 3, 2009, the Commission issued its Order Granting Intervention, which granted intervention to Countertops, Inc., d/b/a Dakota Panel South Dakota, GCC Dacotah, Inc., Rushmore Forest Products, Inc., Sanford Underground Laboratory, Spearfish Forest Products, Inc. and Rapid City Regional Hospital, Inc. (collectively, Black Hills Industrial Intervenors) and Lilius Jarding, Bobbie Handley, Carla Kock, and the South Dakota Peace and Justice Center (collectively, Residential Consumers Coalition). On December 7, 2009, the Commission issued its Order for and Notice of Procedural Schedule and Hearing. The Commission has been advised that the hearing needs to be rescheduled to a later date, yet to be determined.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, 49-34A-12, 49-34A-13, 49-34A13.1, 49-34A-17, 49-34A-19 and 49-34A-21. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the hearing scheduled to begin February 23, 2010, is continued to a date to be determined.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 4th day of February, 2010.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.</p> <p>By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>2/4/10</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

[Signature]
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

[Signature]
GARY HANSON, Commissioner